

ER 60-6848/A

September 7, 1960

STAT
Mr. Herbert Bainbridge Hayden *cancel*

Dear Mr. Hayden:

I keenly appreciate your letter of the First of September, with your comments on my Detroit talk. There is a great deal in what you say, and I shall not forget it.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles

Allen W. Dulles
Director

AWD:at

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(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE *H*)

60-6848

HERBERT BAINBRIDGE HAYDEN

Sept. 1, 1960

STAT

Hon. Allen W. Dulles,
Director, Central Intelligence,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

A group of highly intelligent and successful men has asked that I write to you in re your very interesting speech of August 22 to the VFW in Detroit.

We have all read this speech and feel that something definite and constructive should be done with regard to the the points that you made.

It seems to us that the time has come when this country should take a much stronger attitude toward Russia and put a stop to the present namby-pamby, defensive methods we use. The present softness and complacency must be done away with, the decisions must be made by the U.S. and not left to the Soviets' initiative. For years we have been off balance, on the defensive, constantly surprised, while the Russians laugh and keep winning.

It seems to us that those in authority in Washington should get on the TV and tell the country in simple, Anglo-Saxon words the whole truth about the Communistic activities. The man on the street knows nothing about the seriousness of the situation and nobody tells him. Our past errors can never be redeemed unless we show the intestinal fortitude necessary to take the offensive and we will never do that until public opinion is informed and snaps out of its present ignorance and lassitude. When I personally was the Chief of the W.P.B. Lend-Lease Division I was astonished at the keen intelligence and crookedness of the Russians. I spoke of it many times to people in high authority in Washington without result. The reaction was invariably that we must deal calmly with the Russians and comply with all the requirements of fair dealing and good taste! Did anyone ever hear of their acting according to such principles?

We would like to suggest that steps be taken in Washington to tell the people frankly the facts and scare them out of their ignorance; have some daring and find some leadership to act in depth and aggressively. If we do not do this, we will lose.

Sorry to take your time -- this does not require any answer.

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Sincerely yours

